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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 002795

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR: INL MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR
SEPTEMBER 2005

11. (U) The following summarizes Embassy INL activities in September 2005. Unless otherwise indicated, all statistics refer to the month of September 2005.

ILEA

12. (U) On September 20, Ambassador Barclay and Governance Minister Figueroa signed a bilateral agreement to establish an International Law Enforcement Academy in El Salvador. The agreement has passed from President Saca to the National Assembly for ratification. The GOES expects ratification within the next several weeks.

NARCOTICS INTERDICTION

13. (U) Operations: Officers of the Anti-Narcotics Police (DAN) at the INL-constructed vehicle inspection facility in El Amatillo inspected 506 cars, 737 passenger buses, and 284 commercial freight trucks. In all operations throughout the country, the INL-supported DAN seized 24 kilograms of marijuana, two kilograms of cocaine, and 15 kilograms of heroin (see following paragraph), as well as arresting 63 individuals for trafficking offenses.

14. (U) Amatillo: On September 5, DAN officers at Amatillo seized one kilogram of heroin hidden in the shoes of a Mexican national bus driver. On September 15, they seized 14 kilograms of heroin that was sewn into 27 pieces of clothing carried by two Mexican nationals. (Note: Fifteen kilos of heroin has a U.S. street value of US\$1.35 million. INL paid US\$320,000 to construct the Amatillo inspection facility. End Note.)

MONEY LAUNDERING

15. (U) Operations: The INL-supported Financial Investigations Unit (FIU) received 29 Suspicious Activities Reports, opened 5 new investigations, and identified and removed 172 false dollar-denominated bills from circulation. No convictions were realized.

HUMAN SMUGGLING/TRAFFICKING AND TRANSIT SECURITY

16. (U) Operations: The INL-supported Border Police (Fronteras) arrested 35 individuals for human smuggling and one person for trafficking in September. Police operations rescued 25 minors in the process of being smuggled or trafficked. No convictions for trafficking or smuggling were realized during the month.

ORGANIZED CRIME, RULE OF LAW, AND DEMAND REDUCTION

17. (U) Organized Crime: In September, the PNC arrested 1437 individuals for gang-related criminal activity. Of these arrests, 20 percent of the cases were dismissed for lack of evidence, 65 percent are incarcerated awaiting trial, and 15 percent were assigned alternative sentencing (community service). 60 gang members were killed due to gang-related violence.

18. (U) Culture of Lawfulness: On September 27, INLOff met with program managers from the NGO National Strategy Information Center (NSIC) to discuss implementing the second phase of the Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) program in El Salvador. NSIC plans to prepare eight additional Salvadoran "trainers" who will provide CoL training to 200 teachers at 60 schools during FY-06. This second phase of implementation will be funded by INL and CICAD.

19. (U) Demand Reduction: INL sponsored the travel of the deputy director of the National Anti-Drug Commission to Canada to attend a CICAD conference on evaluating the effectiveness of demand reduction programs. Barclay